APPLICATION FAQS

Virgin Money London Marathon 2021

Here are some of the questions we have had about our Virgin Money London Marathon 2021 places – we hope they are helpful but please do get in touch if your question isn’t answered.

What support will I receive from The Brain Tumour Charity?
We will support you through every step of your marathon journey, with your dedicated contact, Sarah giving you one-to-one support with fundraising. As well as this you can look forward to the below:

- Opportunity to attend a Lab Tour – see the research we fund in action!
- Closed Facebook group for only The Brain Tumour Charity team – introduce yourself to the rest of the runners, you are all one big family by when it comes to the big day!
- Invitation to join our Strava team.
- Free charity running vest.
- London Marathon fundraising pack.
- You will be invited to our training day with a specialist marathon coach to answer all your training needs throughout your journey.
- Three cheer points on the day to cheer you around the course.
- Invitation for you, family and friends to our Runner’s Reception after the race for massages, food & drink and a well earned shower.

Does it cost me anything to run for The Brain Tumour Charity?
Applying for one of our Gold Bond places is completely free. If your application is successful we do ask for a registration fee of £50 – this is to help towards our costs and is non-refundable under any circumstances.

What is the minimum sponsorship?
We ask all our Charity/Gold Bond place runners to raise a minimum of £2,700 for their Virgin Money London Marathon place (excluding Gift Aid). This could fund two weeks of top quality research; in this time, researchers can test the response of glioblastoma cells to a new drug to determine if it stops tumour growth.

How do I apply for my place in the marathon?
There are two ways you can apply; for a Gold Bond /charity place or through the public ballot.

Gold Bond /charity place - To apply for one of our charity places (also referred to as Gold Bond place), we run an application process online. All applications received will be considered on and ongoing basis by our panel from across The Charity and all places will be offered before 16 October 2020. Our places are awarded purely on the strength of the application submitted so please take time to explain your motivation to run for us and how you would plan to reach the minimum fundraising target. We only have a limited number of places to offer (33) and expect to receive over 250 applications, so take your time to stand out.

Public ballot – The 2021 public ballot will be opened this summer due to coronavirus (date tbc) but is expected to still be open for a limited time (under 7 days), with over 500,000 people expected to apply within this time. Although to be confirmed, it is also expected that London Marathon Events will announce those who have been successful for the 2021 event in October 2020. If this is you please get in touch – you can still run for a charity with these places.
Can I apply to the public ballot and for a charity place?
Yes, double your chances of running in the Virgin Money London Marathon 2021 by applying to both the public ballot and for one of our charity places! You’ve got to be in it to win it!

When will I know the outcome of my application?
All of our charity places will be allocated by Friday 16 October 2020. Everyone who applies will hear of the outcome of their application by this date. If you’re lucky enough to be offered both a ballot place and one of our Gold Bond places, please let us know so we are able to offer our Gold Bond place to another runner and raise even more vital funds and awareness.

What if I can’t raise the minimum sponsorship?
We do ask that you take the minimum sponsorship seriously, but if you are worried about hitting the minimum sponsorship target we are here to help! We will support you every step of the way and will help give you lots of ideas to make sure you are on track with your fundraising!

We do ask that your first donations are received by 31 December 2020 but don’t require the full £2,700 (excluding Gift Aid) until 8 weeks after the Virgin Money London Marathon 2021, so we would encourage you to continue fundraising after the event if you need to.

What is the latest point I can pull out of the marathon and still roll my place?
**Gold Bond place:** If you are have a Gold Bond place YOU MUST TELL US you are withdrawing. As the place belongs to The Charity we have to be the ones to withdraw any places. So let us know if you are no longer able to take part. Our Gold Bond places can be rolled into the following year, but are decided on case by case basis and cannot be guaranteed.

**Ballot place:** If you have a ballot place you will be able to defer your place up to the day before the Virgin Money London Marathon 2021 (event date: 25 April 2021) but must do this by 8pm. To do this you would need to complete the online withdrawal form on the Virgin Money London Marathon website and you will receive confirmation of your guaranteed place for 2022 in around June 2021.

Can I run for more than one charity?
If you are successful in being allocated a Gold Bond place, you must run in support and fundraise for only that charity.

However if you have a ballot place, you can run and fundraise for multiple charities if you wish.

Do I have to run it in a specific amount of time?
No, we know that every runner goes at a different pace – we will be with you from the start of the race all the way until you cross that finish line! Our cheer points will cheer on absolutely every runner no matter their time.

Do I need to have run a marathon before?
No, but we highly recommend taking part in a half marathon before you take on a full marathon. Our team coach says that it is ideal to be able to get three runs around 18 miles before the race – whether these are training runs or events is up to you.

Can I run it in fancy dress?
Of course! Do let us know what you are planning as we may be able to help and notify the organisers and see what we can do to support this.

If you have any other questions that aren’t covered here, then please send the team and email to: marathon@thebraintumourcharity.org.